God's Probationers

GOD'S PROHIBITIONS.

Exodus 20:4 Thou shalt not.

The negative note of the Ten Commandments smites harshly on our modern sense of things.

A certain Child Psychology heads one of its chapters, "Dont say 'Dont'". Typical of modern life from that of the child to the affairs of state.

The New Testament is positive, swallowing up the O.T. negative in the law of Love which is perfect liberty.

And so God's Thou Shalt Not is not in very great popular favor these days. And yet in his very Prohibitions, God has shown a wonderful wisdom.

I am the Lord thy God which brot thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage shows the motive of the Almighty-it is for our own good.

I. Civilizstion could not have been developed without curbing man's natural impulses.

There is no freedom without the limitaton of freedom. A system of law and order necessary for self-govern ment. No social order without law. There can be no gov't and system of law without prohibitions.

Until all tongues are controlled can society do away with "Thou shalt not bear false witness".

Only when passion no longer runs wild, only when it has been brot within the limits of decency, order and safety, can we repeal the law, "Thou shalt not commit adultery."

So long as men are inclined to kill will the commandmen stand, Thou shalt not kill.

II. The Negative Commandments imply that we have sufficien will-power to obey, to restrain one's self within the limits of the law.

When a parent says to the child, "You must never play with matches", he says it believing that his child has the power to obey. Man has the power to control himself to obey the law of the social order of which he is a member. When men turn their backs on this hard and narrow road of obedience to law, they head straight for the broad way that leads back to the beast.

It is true that a prohibition may arouse rebellion rather than obedience. A law sometimes is powerless to accomplish its own purpose.

There are some who believe that our 18th Amendment is a failure for hat very reason.

Last Sunday was the anniversary of the Adoption. Last year I celebrated by dedication two services to it.

2. I suppose some of you wonder why I did'nt do the same this year. Have I changed my mind? Is my courage failing? Is it true that the 18th Amend. is aboutto be modified?

Here is the real situation. The liquor interest know that if Prohibition successds in America, it will be adopted by the whole world. And so the wets of the world are fighting Prohibitoon in the U&S. The very man at the head of enforcement has b een proven to be in the wet ring, accepting bribes a resorting to caumafl flage.

But is npite of all this, the facts continue to pile up evidence that is decidedly favorable to Prohibition.

Prohibition at its worst is saving this country $6 billion annually, besides accomplishing much good in so many different ways. Biggest health measure in land.

The talk that Prohibition is losing ground and is falling into disrepute so far as public opinion is concerned, is refuted by the last election returns.

All Congressman were reelected and 32 Senators were voted upon at the last elections. And how do they stand now? 73 Senators out of96 are dry. And322 Congressmen out of 435 are dry.

III. But to return to our subjext of God's Prohibitions the Negative Commandments are a reminder of God's shepherding care over us.

I am the Lord thy God which brot thee out of the Land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

The human race has always had to have a lot of shepherding, and still has to have.

When a child is taught not to play with matches, we realize that it is for that child's own good. All the prohibitions of God are for our own good. By them our Heavenly Father shows his All-Wise Care over us. The barriers and fences of God are signs of mercy and love, not signs of tyranny. They are not arbitrary laws, but made for our welfare.

IV. But God's last word, God's best word is not merely negation. God's best and last commandment is positiv "Walk in the Spirit, then ye shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.

The strength of a nation is found in its law-abiding , country-loving citizens.

Love changes "I must" to"I ought and I will" The Spirit of Christ commands obedience. If ye love me keep my commandments.